

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 6, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 140
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 188
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Feinstein,

As the Committee develops the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, we urge you to support programs at the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop and deploy carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technologies in partnership with the private sector. We appreciate your past support for CCUS programs at DOE. We ask that you fund CCUS programs at the highest possible levels in FY 2018 and adopt report language supporting an aggressive timeline for developing new and advanced carbon storage and utilization technologies.

As the world transitions towards a carbon constrained economy, investment in CCUS technology will spur economic development and ensure energy security while protecting the environment from carbon dioxide emissions. According to the International Energy Agency and United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, CCUS is a critical component of the portfolio of energy technologies needed to reduce carbon dioxide emissions worldwide. Innovators across the United States are already developing a wide range of CCUS technologies that can improve the efficiency of electricity generation and utilize carbon dioxide emitted by power plants and other sources into valuable products, such as algae-derived chemicals, plastics, and fuels. As the U.S. develops CCUS technologies, we will benefit not only from cleaner power here at home, but from new markets for U.S. technologies abroad, including innovations towards direct air capture. By transforming carbon dioxide from a waste disposal problem into an economic resource, carbon utilization technologies could also lower the cost of reducing emissions, create jobs, save consumers money, and safeguard our environment.

In order to improve the performance, reliability and efficiency of both new and existing fossil fuel fired power plants, we request flexible funding to address emissions from coal, natural gas, and industrial facilities. Continuation of funding for both research and development and pilot scale field testing is necessary to advance critical CCUS technologies to the next stage including development of direct air capture technologies.

Specific funding within CCS and Power Systems should include maximum funding for the carbon capture and carbon storage programs. Additionally, the focus of the carbon storage program should be expanded to include utilization.

We request the following report language to encourage DOE to support the development of innovative carbon storage and utilization technologies:

The Committee encourages the Office of Fossil Energy to use its existing authorities within the CCS and Power Systems area to fund activities that promote the reuse of captured carbon dioxide from coal, natural gas, industrial facilities and other sources for the production of fuels and other valuable products. The Committee directs the Department to establish a large-scale effort to combine research and development capacity and expertise to solve the carbon sequestration and utilization challenge within ten years in order to improve the economics associated with domestic energy production.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



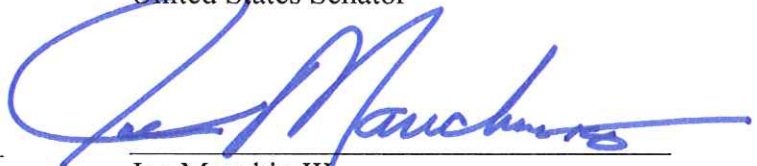
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Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
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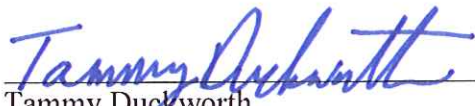
Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



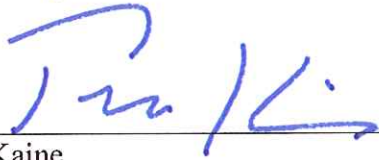
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United States Senator



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



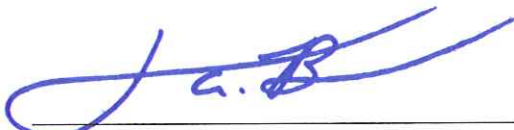
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Tim Kaine
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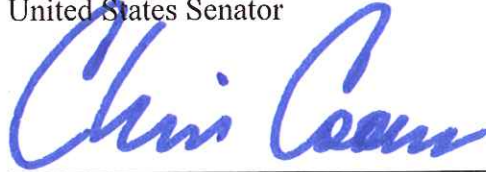
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